

Poetry.

TIRED MOTHERS.

A little elbow leans upon your knee,
Your tired knee that has so much to bear;
A child's dear eyes are looking lovingly
From underneath a thatch of tangled hair,
Perhaps you do not heed the velvet touch
Of warm, moist fingers, holding yours so tight;
You do not prize this blessing overmuch,
You almost are too tired to pray to-night.

But it is blessedness! A year ago
I did not see it as I do today—
We are so dull and thankless, and too slow
To catch the sunshine ere it slips away.
And now it seems surpassing strange to me
That, while I wore the badge of motherhood,
I did not kiss more oft and tenderly
The little child that brought me only good.

And if, some night, when you sit down to rest,
You miss this elbow from your tired knee,
This restless, curling head from off your breast
This lisping tongue that chatters constantly:
If from your own the dimpled hands had slipped,
And ne'er would nestle in your palms again;
If the white feet into their grave had tripped,
I could not blame you for your heartache then.

I wonder so that mothers ever fret
At little children clinging to their gown;
Or that the footprints, when the days are wet,
Are ever black enough to make them frown.
If I could find a little muddy boot,
Or cap or jacket on my chamber floor;
If I could kiss a rosy, restless foot,
And hear its patter in my home once more;

If I could mend a broken cart to-day,
To-morrow make a kite to reach the sky—
There is no woman in God's world could say
She was more blissfully content than I.
But ah! the dainty pillow next my own
Is never rumpled by a shining head;
My singing birdling from its nest has flown;
The little boy I used to kiss is dead.

Contributions.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE.

H. M. LICHTY.

In 1888 I made a pleasure or tourist trip with my father, Jonas Lichty, to the Pacific coast. We then visited H. R. Holsinger, who was serving the brethren as pastor at Lathrop California. At his house we met Brother Frederick, of Ripon, Sister Miller of San Jose and also Brother and Sister Beer, whom we had been intimately acquainted with for years. It was a beautiful Sunday in April. Brother Holsinger and his congregation had just left the church when we arrived from the train. This was my introduction to the state of California. We visited Los Angeles and later the Santa Clara valley, but these first impressions of California have been the most lasting. Ever since I have had a desire to live in the golden state and have made two visits to this "Land of the setting sun" since, one time with a special view of locating there per-

manently. It must be nearly a year ago since brother B. G. Frederick addressed me personally in about the same language as that he used in his recent article in the EVANGELIST, and since that time I have been investigating the claims of that part of the state and must say that all of Brother Frederick's statements have been fully verified. Since our brother and editor of the EVANGELIST, S. J. Harrison, has located at Lathrop, I have been in correspondence with him. Without an exception, my friends and acquaintances who have at any time visited or lived in California have expressed their preference for the state. The only objection being the price of land—a rich man's country—is what is claimed for it. Brother Frederick in his letter to me, and in his article completely sweeps away this objection and I believe there are many of our people who if they were fully posted would conclude they could better their condition by taking up their homes with the brethren of San Joaquin county, Calif.

I recently sent \$1.00 to Brother Harrison expressing a wish that he would give me information in regards to that country to the amount of this. I have received a beautiful souvenir, "Where California Fruits Grow" that sells at 50 cents to \$9.25 according to binding, and many other items of value to one seeking a location in the state of California. I would suggest to those who are looking in that direction the advantage of this method of investigation.

It is my opinion after the personal knowledge I have gained of that locality, and my recent investigations that it would be a profitable and satisfactory undertaking to organize a colony of our own people to locate some where in the vicinity of our present church organization, in the vicinity of Lathrop or Ripon, Cal.

With this end in view I make the following proposition to our people in the east.

I will be one of ten who will contribute an equal proportion towards defraying the railroad expenses of a committee of three persons, to be chosen by those contributing, with the understanding that our California brethren, and those interested in the project will contribute one half of these expenses. One way fare with good accommodations from the Missouri river is thirty-five dollars. Any who are ready to join me in this, can address me and as soon as ten are pledged I will send our proposition to the California brethren. Who will be first to respond?

Wray, Col.

The influence of good people live after them.

INFALLIBLE EVIDENCE.

C. H. BALSBAUGH.

MY DEAR BROTHER:—

Is there anything certain, without the possibility of doubt? In Apostolic times gnosticism was the great foe of the church. Today it is Agnosticism. Then the skeptics knew every thing. Now they do not know whether there is a God, or whether they are immortal.

I have just come from dinner. No amount of theologic or scientific argument could convince me to the contrary. The indubitable consciousness of the act, and the sense of invigoration that followed, are no more to be questioned than my existence. Are the experiences of the spiritual life less pronounced? Has God done His very best to redeem man, and yet our acceptance with Him, and His imminence in us, still be an unsolved problem? Forgiveness of sin, and the Gift of the Holy Ghost, are not to be taken for granted because we have attended to certain ceremonials. "We are His workmanship, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS unto good works." Eph. 2:10. Not by good works. No one was ever made a child of God by obedience to any external ordinance any more than we become children naturally by being born. *Life necessitates* all its phenomena, and not *vice versa*.

Your error is that of thousands. You thought by doing certain things you would surely receive remission of sins, and become a saint. Now your eyes are opened, and you are awfully conscious that you lack the witness of the spirit. You can have it, not through ritual, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Symbols are not substitutes for holiness. The Holy One only can sanctify. We must settle our account with God by our immediate personal transaction, and not by legal circumlocution. Christ is a perfect mediator, or He is nothing. The Holy Ghost offers Him as such to every anxious soul. Less than this would make the incarnation of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Ghost a Gospel of delusion.

You say you did not get in baptism what Jesus received. Neither did the Apostles. Christ was full of the Holy Ghost from His conception. The descent upon him of the Spirit at His baptism was the visible and audible testimony of the Father to the sonship of Emmanuel, and not his first recognition of this essential fact. The Christ that can meet the wants of humanity must be wholly and uninterruptedly under the dominion of the Holy Spirit from the moment of genesis. His baptism would have been a sham without such an antecedent. In like manner are